(ii) Chiplun & Madgaon on Konkan Railway (only watering).

(iii) Igatpuri and Bhusawal on Central Railway.

(iv) Itarsi on West Central Railway (only watering).

(v) Jhansi to Agra on North Central Railway (one traveling safaiwala is provided).

II. For Krishna Express (Tirupati-Hyderabad) Cleaning and watering is done at Vijayawada.

(b) One complaint regarding leakage of water in a coach in Mangla Express has been received during June 03. Defect has been rectified.

(c) Does not arise.

Improving efficiency of Railways

†2210. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail administration is considering to retire the employees after a certain age to improve the efficiency in railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it is considering to grant some relief to retiring employees; and

(d) if so, the details of the relief being considered to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRl BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. However, a safety-related retirement scheme for two categories only has been announced.

(b) to (c) The details are under formulation.

Railway Time-table

†2211. SHRl P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for publication of Railway Time-table; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for not releasing the Time-table by the Railways so far which is normally announced on 1st July every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Railway Time-tables are published once a year and come into effect from the 1 st of July. The time-tables of all the Zonal Railways have been released as per schedule.

Qualified drivers in Railways

2212. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of qualified railway drivers suitable for running long distance high speed mail and express trains;

(b) what is the present sanctioned strength of such drivers and their actual availability, zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to bridge the gap between requirement and availability of such drivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Departure and arrival of Shramjeevi Express

†2213. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the dates, during 1st January, 2003 to 15th July, 2003 on which Shramjeevi Express either departed late from Patna/Delhi or got late on the way and arrived New Delhi/Patna late; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The departure/arrival of 2401/2402 Patna-New Delhi Shramjeevi Express from Patna/New Delhi during the period from 1st January, 2003 to 15th July 2003 are given below.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.